

Appl. No. :10/528,209  
Declaration of Elaine STEPHEN



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln No: 10/528,209  
Applicant: Elaine STEPHEN  
Filed: March 16, 2005  
For : RESTRAINING APPARATUS  
Art Unit: 1772  
Examiner: THOMAS, Alexander S.  
Attorney Docket: 8830 -328US(208102)  
Customer No. 23973

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION OF ELAINE STEPHEN UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132**

S I R:

- 1) I, Elaine Stephen, of 109 Queen Street, Peterhead, United Kingdom, hereby  
declare and state as follows:
  
- 2) I am the inventor named in PCT/GB2003/004159, which corresponds to US  
Application Serial No. 10/528,209. I have read and understood  
PCT/GB2003/004159, which corresponds to US Application Serial No.  
10/528,209. I have also read and understood the amendment and response to

Office action that was mailed on September 13, 2007, the Office Action dated October 12, 2007 issued on the application, and the prior art documents of US 6,435,931 (Yeager), US 2,275,983 (Nadeau) and US 4,321,734 (Gandelman), which were mentioned in the most recent Office action dated October 12, 2007.

- 3) I understand that the currently pending claims are rejected as being obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. I respectfully disagree. The invention that is currently claimed has received numerous unsolicited awards, providing significant unbiased evidence that the invention which is currently claimed was not and is not obvious. These awards clearly show that the invention was not obvious to not only an ordinary person in the art, but to experienced individuals in this design industry.

- 4) I have won the following awards for the invention claimed and described in US Application Serial No. 10/528,209:

**Winner, British Invention of the Year 2007**

**Winner, International Design of the Year 2007**

**Winner, International Award, Inventors Association of Croatia**

**Winner, Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in  
Invention/Innovation**

**Diamond Winner, UK Woman Invention/Innovation of the Year 2007**

**Diamond Winner, UK Woman Product Developer of the Year 2007**

**Winner, European Woman Inventor of the Year 2007 (mother/child category)**

**Winner, European Special Recognition Award for Innovation**

**Winner, UK Nursery Innovator of the Year 2007**

**Winner, Grampian New Business Enterprise of the Year 2007**

**Winner, Pan-European Shell Exploration Safety Exchange Competition**

**2005/06**

Further details of each award & event are detailed on the following pages.

**i) British Invention Show 2007**

**Winner, British Invention of the Year 2007**

Runners up, D, Evans (UK). L. Paul UK)

**Winner, International Design of the Year 2007**

Runners Up, L. Yung Mo (Taiwan), K. Weller (UK)

**Winner, International Award, Inventors' Association of Croatia**

**Winner, Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Invention/Innovation**

**Venue: Alexandra Palace, London**

**Organiser: British Inventors Society**

**Competitors: 150**

**Origin of Competitors: Malaysia, Croatia, Holland, Taiwan, Slovenia, Iran,  
Luxemburg, UK**

**Judges: Chairman of British & World Juries, Prof. Andrew Self OBE,**

(Emeritus Prof. of Enterprise), Vice-chair Dr. Ratna Samy Muniandy (Faculty of Engineering University Putra Malaysia), Harry Cole (European Licensing Practitioner) Tony Guile (Project Manager Wales Innovators Network, Welsh Government) Marguerite Lipscomb MSc, MIOD (Director of Enterprise, Knowledge Transfer) Nevan Markovich (Croatian Inventors Association) Rob Moss (Director of Knowledge Dock, University of East London), Prof. Andrew Pollard (Industrial Professor), Mindy Wilson ( Head of Manufacturing, Make Your Mark), Jeff Woolf OBE ( Inventor Micromap, Innovation Specialist, Designer, TV presenter)

**ii) British Female Inventor and Innovator of the Year Awards 2007**

**Diamond Winner, Invention/Innovation of the Year 2007**

Runners up, R. Jones (Totseat), Liz Paul (Menitest)

**Diamond Winner, Product Developer of the Year 2007**

Runner Up, C. Vince (Clip & Pull)

**Venue:** Café Royal, London

**Organiser:** Global Woman Inventor & Innovators Network

**No of Competitors:** 100

**Origin of Competitors:** UK

**Judges:** Chairman, Paul Ambridge (President & Past Chairman of Institute of Patentees & Inventors), Angela Giveon (MD & Editor of Executive Woman

Magazine), Diane Morris (President, International Alliance for Women), Peta Payne (International Women of Excellence), Dr Graham Rawlinson (Research Fellow, Sussex University), Vicki Salmon (UK/European Patent Attorney), Vimmi Singh ( Venture Capitalist, JP Morgan Chase London), Marcia Harris (CEO Innovative Enterprise Action), Francis Hobbs (Business Creation Development Director, Kingston University)

**iii) European Female Inventor and Innovator of the Year Awards 2007**

**Winner, European Woman Inventor of the Year 2007** (mother/child category)

**Winner, European Special Recognition Award for Innovation**

**Venue:** Kempinski Hotel, Berlin, Germany

**Organiser:** Global Woman Inventor & Innovators Network

**No of Competitors:** 35

**Origin of Competitors:** Germany, Spain, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Switzerland, Estonia, Portugal, Belgium, Latvia, Finland, UK.

**Judges:** Chairman, Paul Ambridge (President & Past Chairman of Institute of Patentees & Inventors), Vice Chair, Diane Morris (President, International Alliance for Women), Adalheidur Karlsdottir (Iceland), Anne-Mari Rannamae (Estonia), Anene Ibisi (City University of Technology, Nigeria), Dr Carla Delfino (Imperial Emporium, Italy), Kane Kramer (British Inventors Society, UK), Maila Hakala (Finland), Nicola Rathbone (Ireland Inventors Association), Gerard Stein (Evo-olution Foundation, France), Dr Marianne Schwarz da Silva

(European Platform for Women Scientists), Viivi Jokk (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia)

iv) **NMT Nursery Awards 2007**

**Winner, Nursery Innovator of the Year 2007**

Runners Up, Nurserycam, Parenta, Eibeplay, Training Packages

**Venue:** Hilton Metropole Hotel, London

**Organiser:** Nursery Management Today Magazine

**No of Competitors:** 80

**Origin of Competitors:** UK

**Judges:** Ray Barker (Director, British Educational Suppliers Association), Del Sharman (Poundgates), Barbara Baker (CEO, Tender Loving Childcare)

**Comments from Judges:** *"It is a unique product which solves one of the key problems in managing outdoor activity, a vital safety product which added learning and interaction possibilities. We were very impressed by the professionalism and level of research used in the development of the product."*

v) **Grampian Business & Enterprise Awards 2007**

**Winner, New Business of the Year 2007**

Runner Up, Interactyx

**Venue:** Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen

**Organiser:** Scottish Enterprise Grampian

**No of Competitors:** 40

**Origin of Competitors:** UK

**Judges:** Senior Employees of Royal Bank of Scotland & Scottish Enterprise

**v) Shell European Safety Exchange Competition 2005/06**

**Winner, European Safety Exchange Competition**

Runners Up, Acona Norway & BP Norway, Grampian Police, UK.

**Venue:** Shell Exploration, Aberdeen

**Organiser:** Shell Exploration

**No of Competitors:** 120

**Origin of Competitors:** Europe-wide

**Judges:** Senior Shell Exploration Health & Safety personnel

- 5) At exhibit 1 I attach certificates or other official notifications and press cuttings relating to the awards noted in paragraph 4 above.
- 6) These awards were, in each case, directed to the product that is claimed in the present application. The awards without doubt show that the present invention was not obvious to people in this field. These awards provide evidence that the

invention was not only not known at the time, but was so drastically different and innovative that it was worthy of numerous awards.

- 7) I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-mentioned application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 8.1.08 Signed: E Stephen

**Elaine STEPHEN**



# **British Invention Show**

**Winner, British Invention of the Year 2007**

**Winner, International Design of the Year 2007**

**Winner, International Award, Inventors Association of Croatia**

**Winner, Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Invention/Innovation**

British Invention of the Year			
Diamond award			
Walkodile	Elaine Stephen	UK	Leisure
Platinum Awards			
Lock-fast Flat pack joint	Dafydd Evans	UK	Industrial
Manibast	Liz Paul	UK	Consumer
Walkodile	Elaine Stephen	UK	Leisure
Double Gold Awards			
Lock-fast Flat pack joint	Dafydd Evans	UK	Consumer
Poopod	Sue Bell	UK	Leisure
Portable Dialysis System	Alexander K Bushell	UK	Industrial
Uhuru Micro	Alexander K Bushell	UK	Leisure
Uhuru Micro	Alexander K Bushell	UK	Industrial
USB Panels	Paul Nolan	UK	Consumer
International Invention of the Year			
Platinum Awards			
Griseovin	Shah Alam	Malaysia	Consumer
Scross	Zdravko Gabernik	Croatia	Leisure
Double Gold Awards			
123 Stop-Fire	Edward Van Noord	Holland	Consumer
Bioceramic Bone Implant	University of Malaysia	Malaysia	Industrial
Biometrics Thumb Drive	Universiti Sains Malaysia	Malaysia	Consumer
Concealed Camera for Security Extract	Miss Fan Chiang	Taiwan	Industrial
Perc Hydrofoil Tsunami	Azimin Samsul Mohd Tazilan	Malaysia	Consumer
Time House	Perc Tomaz	Slovenia	Leisure
	Aysan Taher	Iran	Leisure

Innovation of the Year			
<b>Diamond award</b>			
Griseovin	Shah Alam	Malaysia	Consumer
<b>Platinum Awards</b>			
Oansome	Emily Webb	UK	Leisure
Griseovin	Shah Alam	Malaysia	Consumer
Oil Spill Absorber	Ku Halim Ku Hamid & Mohibah Musa	Malaysia	Industrial
<b>Double Gold Awards</b>			
Menitest	Liz Paul	UK	Consumer
Poopod	Sue Bell	UK	Leisure
Portable Dialysis Machine	Alexander K Bushell	UK	Industrial
Rapid Dirty Filtering Machine	Wang, Hsin-Ken	Taiwan	Industrial
UBS Panels	Paul Nolan	UK	Consumer
Uhuru Micro	Alexander K Bushell	UK	Leisure
<b>David Nicholas Design Award</b>			
<b>Diamond award</b>			
Walkodile	Elaine Stephen	UK	
<b>Platinum Award</b>			
Walkodile	Elaine Stephen	UK	*
<b>Double Gold Awards</b>			
Scott Hoister	Kim Weiler	UK	
Twist 'n' Brush	HD Products	UK	
Improvement on Bark Sculpture	Wang Tai Co Ltd, Lee Yung-Mo	Taiwan	
<b>Natural Earth Award</b>			
<b>Diamond award</b>			
Sandwich Brick	University of Malaysia	Malaysia	
<b>Double Gold Awards</b>			
Oil Spill Absorber	Ku Halim Ku Hamid & Mohibah Musa	Malaysia	
Rapid Dirty Filtering	Wang Tai Co., Ltd, Wang, Hsin-Ken	Taiwan	

Gold Medal winners (alphabetical)			
123 stop-fire	Edward van Noord	Holland	Consumer
Acidosaliv Spray	Rosa Ferincevic	Croatia	Consumer
Automatic Solder	Hadi Roshani Seifdashedi & Mostafa Yasinzadeh	Iran	Industrial
Badminton Training Racket	Far East University, Wang Ming-Chieh, Chen Te-Hai, Shang Yu-Tai	Taiwan	Consumer
Bio Rust Removing Agent	Ku Halim Ku Hamid & Mohibah Musa	Malaysia	Industrial
Bioceramic for Bone Implant	University of Malaya	Malaysia	Industrial
Biometric Nose & Tongue Device	Zhari Ismail	Malaysia	Industrial
Biometrics Thumb Drive	Universiti Sains Malaysia	Malaysia	Consumer
Biphased Nanostructured Catalyst	Prof Dr Halimatun Hamdan	Malaysia	Industrial
Bliss Crackers	Shah Alam	Malaysia	Consumer
Blooming Jelly	Shah Alam	Malaysia	Consumer
Breathing Door	Azimin Samsul Mohd Tazilan	Malaysia	Industrial
Car Seat Mounting Device	Brian Cox	UK	Consumer
Cholestasare	Prof Dr Azimahtol Harawiah Lope Pihie	Malaysia	Consumer
Concealed Camera for Security	Neotech Photoelectric Inc, Mias Fan Chiang	Taiwan	Industrial
Crisp Bar	Caroline Oakley	UK	Consumer
D+CTOR COOK Solar Cooker	Celia Gates	UK	Leisure
Digital Imaging Technique	Dr. K. Siva Balasundram	Malaysia	Industrial
DLMS – SmartSeat	Dominic Robinson (Kingston)	UK	Consumer
Extract	Azimin Samsul Mohd Tazilan	Malaysia	Industrial
Eggs Designed for Health	MARDI	Malaysia	Industrial
Electrotechnical Researches	Tomislav Marjanovic	UK	Industrial
EnviroMag	Alexander K Bushell & T J Carpenter	UK	Consumer
Export Freshcut Jackfruit	MARDI	Malaysia	Industrial
Finger Fixator	Dr. Noor Azuan Abu Osman	Malaysia	Consumer
Fishing Reel Controller	Frederick Mellak	Leisure	Industrial
Flatusorb	Dr. Lua Pei Lin, Dr. Wong Tin Wui, Dr. Kalavathy Ramasamy	Malaysia	Consumer
Flexural Strength Analyzer of Golf Club	& Mr. Lim Siong Meng		
	Far East University - Wang Cheng-Chi, Chung Min-Chi, Yeh Yen-Liang, Lin Bing-Fu, Chen Jun-Xuan, Lin Hsin-Yu, Huang Po-Yi	Taiwan	Consumer
Functionalised Nanocomposite Proton Exchange	Prof Dr Halimatun Hamdan	Malaysia	Industrial
Gange Guardian	Bill Currie	UK	Consumer
Glostrex	University of Malaya	Malaysia	Industrial
Great Star Saws	Bob Jackson	UK	Consumer
Griseovin	Shah Alam	UK	Industrial
Happy Cat Safety Collar	Phil Crisp	UK	Leisure
Hip Spica Brace	Dr. Wan Falsaham Numan Wan Ismail	UK	Industrial
HOOK-IT	Mr John Edwards	UK	Leisure

Gold Medal winners - continued (alphabetical)		Ivica Majdak	Croatia	Consumer
Hoplia Chair				
Incostress®		Gaynor Morgan	UK	Consumer
Insect Fly Trap		Bill Currie	UK	Industrial
Intelligent system substituting speed cameras and laser guns.		All Pourya & Yazdipour Roozban	Iran	Leisure
JundorT Barbecue Blower		Paul Dorricott	UK	Industrial
Lock Fast Flat Pack Joint		Dalydd Evans	UK	Consumer
M-DUQAS		Tengku Mohd T. Sambok	Malaysia	Consumer
MenFast		Liz Paul	UK	Consumer
Mini-Grip		Andy Manuel	UK	Industrial
Minimal Cutting Fluid		University of Malaysia	Malaysia	Consumer
Mosquito-proof earring		Far East University, Chan Tien-Yin, Yang Yung-wen, Shou Wei-Ping, Kuan Hsu-Chiang, Lee Chin-Sheng, Shu Feng-Gai, Huang Kuei-Chun, CailHong-Zhong	Taiwan	
Moulelec		Mrs Yvonne Hague	UK	Consumer
Multifunction Lighting Fixture		Sun Glory Electronic Co Ltd, Huang, Taung-Jung	Taiwan	Consumer
Multimedia Design Model		Dr. Normadian bt Sheikh Said	Malaysia	Industrial
Multi-Purpose Duct		Nikola Petkovic	Croatia	Consumer
Multi-Purpose Magnetic Tape		Kai Rong Industrial Co., Ltd, Fan Chian Chen-Liang, Wu Hung-Chih	Taiwan	Consumer
Nanostructured Coupled Semiconductor		Prof Dr Halimatun Hamdan	Malaysia	Industrial
Orasome PotentiAT Handle		Emily Webb	UK	Leisure
Oil Spill Absorber		Ku Halim Ku Hamid & Mohibah Musa	Malaysia	Industrial
Pewc-Hydrofoil Tsunami		Perc Tomaz	Malaysia	Leisure
Phyllignan		Prof. Chan Kit Lam	Slovenia	Consumer
PinQy		Erik Crommelynck	Malaysia	Consumer
Plasb-Wood		Kuan Chen-Feng, Min-Chi Chung, Chen Chia-Hsun, Kuan Hsu-Chiang, Lin Kun-Chang, Kuan Peng Hsin-Chin	Luxembourg	Consumer
Plug Pal		Jane Mitchell	Taiwan	Consumer
Poopod		Sue Bell	UK	Leisure
Portable Dialysis System		Alexander K Bushell	UK	Industrial
Portable wet sand blast		Hamid Alireza Rastegar Abbasalizadeh Rezaeian	Iran	Industrial
Rapid Dirty Filtering Machine		Wang, Hsin-Ken	Taiwan	Consumer
RED ALERT		Micro Medical Monitoring Systems	UK	Industrial
Resolution Loud Speakers		Nick LeFeuvre	UK	Leisure
Rolling Structures		Farzad Jallilian	Iran	Consumer
Roselle		Universiti Teknologi MARA	Malaysia	Consumer
Roselle Mutant Line		Prof Dr Mohamed Osman	Malaysia	Consumer
SANASma		University of Malaysia	Malaysia	Leisure
Scott Holster		Kim Weller	UK	Leisure

Scross A Numerical Board Game Gold Medal winners - continued (alphabetical)	Zdravko Gabersnik	Croatia	Leisure
Shower Shield Playhouse	Scott Welch	UK	Industrial
Shason paint	Sina Saberi	Iran	Industrial
Smart Detector Of Service Intervals	Ivan Matuna	Croatia	Industrial
Solarstar (Flood Defence)	Alexander K Bushell	UK	Industrial
Spinning of viscose (rayon) fibres	Minshahin SeyedSaleh	Iran	Consumer
SSEDS	University of Malaya	Malaysia	Leisure
Time House	Aysan Taher	Iran	Industrial
Trile Toottrianals	Universiti Teknologi MARA	Malaysia	Leisure
Twist 'n' Brush	HD Products Ltd	UK	Consumer
U.B.S. Panels	Paul Nolan	UK	Industrial
UHURU Micro	Alexander K Bushell & T Harper	UK	Consumer
VAAS	Mr Stephen Keuster	UK	Leisure
Walkodile	Eilaine Stephen	UK	Consumer
Washable Leather Slippers	Ivan Stefanic And Jadranka Atalovic And Ivan Susic	Croatia	Consumer

Wonder Grower	Malachi C McKenna	UK	Industrial
<b>Silver Medal winners (alphabetical)</b>			
Atocarpus Seed Flour	Shah Alam	Malaysia	Industrial
Automated RME Device	University of Malaya	Malaysia	Industrial
Biodiesel Processing Plant	Ivan Jakobovic	Croatia	Consumer
Clock for Blind	Behrouz Torangan & Ebrahim Behroozian & Yosef Emami	Iran	Leisure
Cone shaped ice cream kiosk	Srecko Petric	Croatia	Consumer
Corner fitting for shower	Stuart Gibby	UK	Consumer
Expansion Joint Buffer	Dibachi & Jamshidi	Iran	Consumer
E Z Tippi	David Aher & Paul Blanchette	UK	Consumer
Femmax	Mrs Joan Thomas	UK	Consumer
Flexible Bookend	James Helps	UK	Consumer
Giant Sequoia	Jana Haudren & Shaheen Sidhwa	UK	Consumer
High Speed Evacuators Ltd	Stephen Jones	UK	Industrial
Hydroxylic Acid	Prof Dr Mohamad Osman	Malaysia	Consumer
Improvement on Bark Sculpture	Lee, Yung-Mo	Taiwan	Consumer
Intelligent device for controlling the Gas & Oil process in refinery	Pourya ali kourosh Roozban Yazdipour Majari	Iran	Consumer
Middle Mate	Bill Currie	UK	Industrial
MIKIEWeldT	Mike Roberts	UK	Consumer
MultwayT	Matt Trangmar	UK	Industrial
Production of electricity from sea waves	Akbar Tahiri Masouleh	Iran	Consumer
Ray absorber material	Sonya Saberi	Iran	Industrial
Safe Drilling	Dibachi & Jamshidi	Iran	Consumer
sleepy bed			Consumer
Star WaterWheel	David Chance	UK	Consumer
UAV Flight Simulator	Universiti Sains Malaysia	Malaysia	Industrial
Virgicol	Universiti Teknologi MARA	Malaysia	Consumer
Rabbitmat/Rabbitmat-mini	Virginia Rabbits	UK	Consumer
WholeLife Viewer Software	Simon Sharma	UK	Consumer

<b>Bronze Medal winners (alphabetical)</b>			
Machine football skate board	Reza Tavakoli	Iran	Leisure
Reward Mapping	Azhar Hussain and Yaseen Sameja (Kingston)	UK	Industrial
Safety system to prevent flying over from motorcycles LAN vented	Mahammad Hasan Shoorabi	Iran	Consumer
Shoes to walk on water	Mohsen Mostafa Bahmani Bahmani	Iran	Leisure
Transfer of river water	Akbar Tahiri Masouleh	Iran	Industrial
Trio Tocochencia	Universiti Teknologi MARA	Malaysia	Industrial
Wireless ph meter	Hoda Amir	Iran	Consumer
<b>Young Innovator of the year</b>			
<b>Gold Medal</b>			
Offshore rescue aid	Nicholas Lock	UK	
Water Ski Display Stand	Miles Kaye	UK	
Silver Medal			
Drink Dispenser	Elizabeth Ann Durkin	UK	
Collapsible Paddle	Sam McPhail	UK	
Bronze Medal			
Shooker seat & stand	Basil Letts	UK	
Space Saving Furniture	Marc Gareth Jones	UK	
<b>International Awards</b>			
<b>Croatia - Zagreb Award</b>			
Walkodile	Elaine Stephen	UK	
Iran - Diploma			
Biphased Nanostructured Catalyst	Prof Dr Halimaton Hamdan	Malaysia	
Giant Sequoia	Jane Hauldren & Shaheen Sidhwa	UK	
Taiwan			
Bio Rust Removing Agent	Ku Halim Ku Hamid & Mohibah Musa	Malaysia	
Onsome Potential Rowing Oar Handle	Emily Webb	UK	
Malaysia - MIND Award			
D-CTOR COOK Solar Cooker	Celia Gates	UK	



**British Female Inventor and Innovator of**  
**the Year Awards 2007**

**Diamond Winner, UK Woman Invention/Innovation of the Year 2007**

**Diamond Winner, UK Woman Product Developer of the Year 2007**

## **BFIIN 2007 AWARD WINNERS**

**The British Female Inventor 2007 - Dr. Maire McLoone** - *Institute of electronics, communications and information technology (ECIT)*

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**Female Innovator of the Year - Emily Cummins** *Solar Evaporation*

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**Inventor/Innovation Diamond Winner - Elaine Stephen** *Walkodile*

**Inventor/Innovation Gold Winner - Rachel Jones** *Totseat*

**Inventor/Innovation Silver Winner - Elizabeth Paul Menitest** - *MenIngitis Home Testing Kit*

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**Exceptional Creativity Diamond Winner - Emily Cummins** *Solar Evaporation*

**Exceptional Creativity Gold Winner - Kate Pullinger** *Digital Fiction*

**Exceptional Creativity Silver Winner - Marriane Forrest** *Transformations*

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**ITEC Platinum Winner - Dr. Maire McLoone** *Institute of electronics, communications and information technology (ECIT)*

**ITEC Diamond Winner - Kathryn Bullock** *Villas For Travel*

**ITEC Gold Winner - Christina Domecq** *Spinvox Voice*

**ITEC Silver Winner - Eleanor Ford** *LikeCube Ltd*

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**Higher Education Diamond Winner - Dr Liping Zhang** *Lost Caronate Sintering Process for Manufacturing Porous Metals*

**Higher Education Gold Winner - Kate Pullinger** *Digital Fiction*

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**Product Development Diamond Winner - Elaine Stephen** *Walkodile*

**Product Development Gold Winner Cintra - Jaggan-Vince** *Dressing Strap*

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**Environment Diamond Winner - Gayle Blanchflower** *OutABox®*

**Environment Gold Winner - Michelle Brand** *Flowerfall Design*

**Environment Silver Winner - Zawadi Seas** *The Evolution of Natural Talent (TENT)*

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**Capacity Building Diamond Winner - Susan Williams** *Vision On*

**Capacity Building Gold Winner - Brigitte Francois** *SignVideo*

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**Innovative Business Diamond Winner - Brigitte Francois** *SignVideo*

**Innovative Business Gold Winner - Pauline Ryder** *Farm Fresh Express*

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**Best Business Idea Diamond Winner - Christina Domecq *Spinvox Voice***  
**Best Business Idea Gold Winner -Lucky Dissanayake *Dakini Books***

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**Chairman's Award** – presented to **Frank Landamore** for *Inventique*

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**Editor's Notes**

Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GWIIN) is a global network which aims to increase the number of innovative women embracing enterprise. The organisation works with Government departments, leading industry experts, voluntary organisations, enterprises and educational institutions in finding effective ways of bringing the support, assistance, tools, advice and information that assist women in achieving significant growth in their businesses.

Bola Olabisi, Chief Executive, is available for interview on +44 (0) 20 7749 4834 or [bola@gwiin.com](mailto:bola@gwiin.com)

Source: [www.gwiin.com/award\\_2007.htm](http://www.gwiin.com/award_2007.htm)

**THE BRITISH FEMALE INVENTORS  
& INNOVATORS AWARD 2007**



**CERTIFICATE AWARDED TO**

**Elaine Stephen**

**FOR  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

**At The**

**British Female Inventors and Innovators of the Year Conference & Awards Ceremony,  
The Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), London, 24 April 2007**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bola Olabisi'.

**Bola Olabisi (Mrs)**  
BFIIN Founder & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Ambridge'.

**Paul Ambridge**  
President Institute Of Patentees & Inventors

**European Female Inventor and**  
**Innovator of the Year Awards 2007**

**Winner, European Woman Inventor of the Year 2007** (mother/child category)

**Winner, European Special Recognition Award for Innovation**

PRESS RELEASE 18 June 2007

PHOTOS AVAILABLE. Email peter. [prowse@waylines.co.uk](mailto:prowse@waylines.co.uk)

**Aino Heikkinen, a concrete engineer from Finland, takes top prize in European Union Women Inventors & Innovators awards, for recycled building material used in low-cost housing in Africa.**

Aino Heikkinen from Finland, has been voted overall winner in the European Union Women Inventors & Innovator Awards 2007, for her patented TEXCEM process for recycling waste synthetic rag and combining it with microcement. Aino is a concrete engineer and director of CT Microtechnology in Varkaus.

The competition's judges were impressed not only by Aino's inventiveness in coming up with the technology, but also the innovative way she has developed novel uses for the material, such as providing immediate and economically sound habitats for people in developing countries or who are affected by natural disasters.

A total of thirty five women inventors and innovators presented their entries to the judging panel at the Kempinski Hotel Bristol in Berlin, Germany, on 14 June 2007. Diane Morris, Vice-President of the International Alliance for Women, chaired the panel of nine judges and announced the results at an awards dinner on the evening of Saturday 16 June.

**In addition to the overall award for 'best woman inventor & innovator' there were six other category awards which went to:**

Category: Science & Technology

**Liz Williams from Wales (UK)** for her range of Linkz DNA personal and business security alarms. Liz's invention has previously won prizes in the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Office) awards.

Category: Exceptionally Creative and Innovative Woman

Portuguese Maria Conceicao for starting up and running the Dhaka project for children and families living in the slums of Bangladesh. This huge not-for-profit initiative raises funds via the internet and supplies vital resources and skills training.

Category: Mother and child

\* Schoolteacher Elaine Stephen from Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, Scotland (UK) for her invention the Walkodile ®, which keeps 3-7 year-old children linked together – and to accompanying adults – when they are on educational walks outside school or nursery premises.

Category: Healthcare Innovation

**Thuridur Gudmundsdottir, from Iceland,** for her new healing treatment, Green Balm, using Iceland wild yarrow for the treatment of burn wounds.

Category: Information & Communications Technology (ICT)

**Brigitte François, from France but now living in England,** for setting up the first video call centre in Europe providing remote video interpreting services for deaf sign language users.

Category: Design

**Celia Gates a British product designer, based in the UK,** for her Doctor Cook range of cookware, which has a unique handle design that makes the items easier to pick up and manoeuvre. This is of particular benefit to the

elderly or those with weak or injured hands or wrists

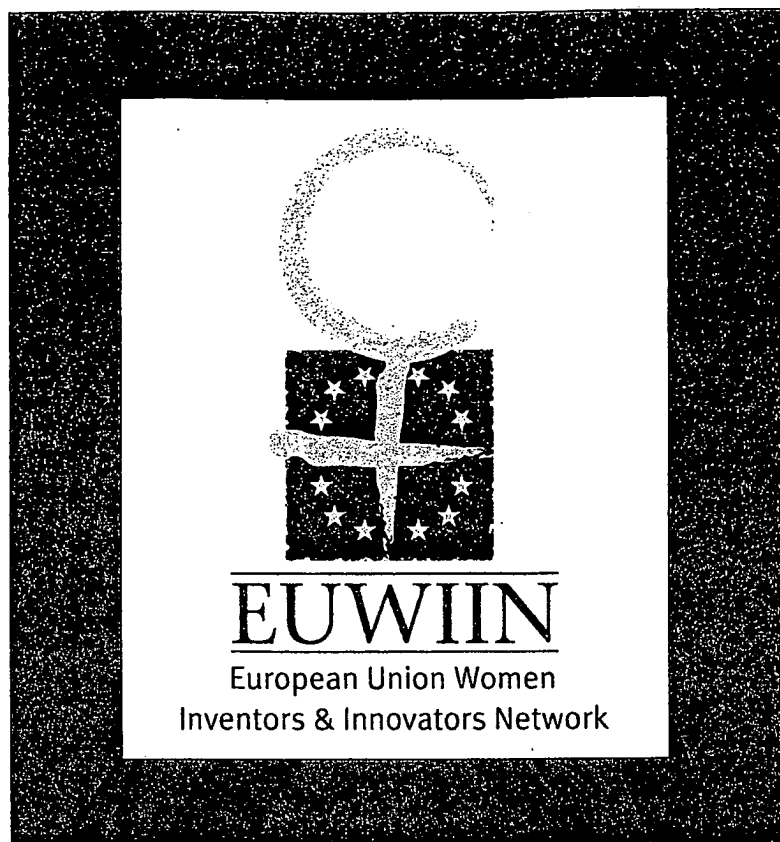
According to Bola Olabisi, the event's creator and organiser, the entries represented a varied selection of exceptionally creative, inventive, innovative women from a diversity of sectors and backgrounds, throughout Europe.

"We were delighted to have such a variety of entries in this, our first year of running the European awards," said Bola Olabisi. "In fact, the standard of entries was so high that we decided to give each finalist a 'special recognition' award."

- ends -

For more information, see [www.euwiin.com](http://www.euwiin.com), or contact:

# CERTIFICATE



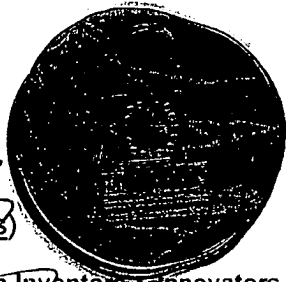
**Category Winner: Mother and child**

*Elaine Stephen*

**FOR HER INNOVATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS  
& ON BECOMING A 'FELLOW'**

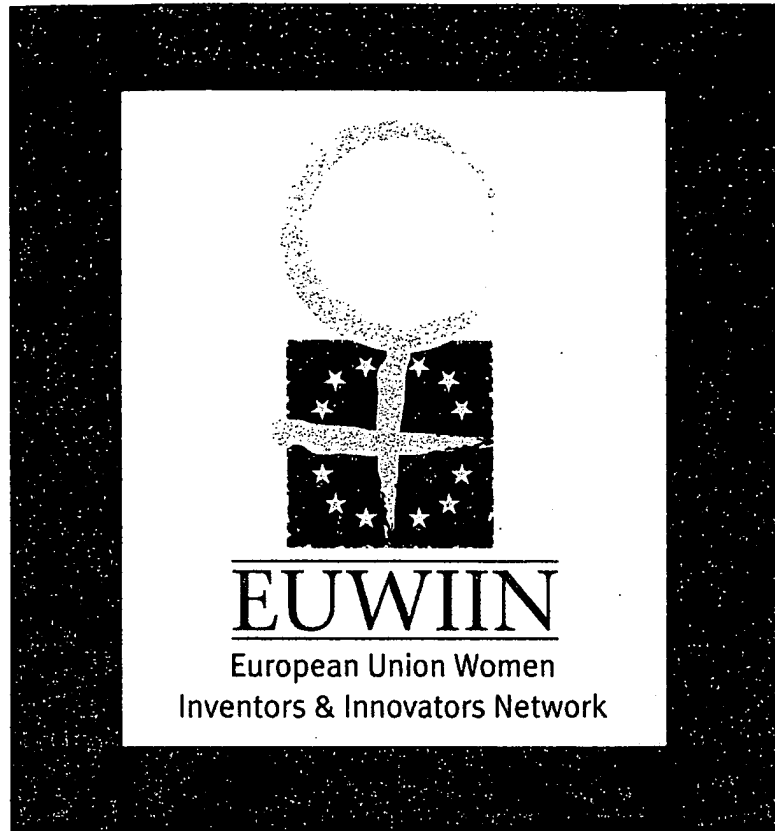
At The Occasion of the  
European Women Inventors and Innovators Conference & Awards Ceremony  
Held at the Kempinski Hotel, Berlin, Germany  
16 June 2007

**Bola Olabisi (Mrs)**  
EUWIIN DIRECTOR,  
CEO, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network





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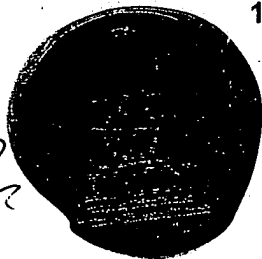


**'SPECIAL RECOGNITION'  
AWARDED TO**

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# **Nursery Management Today**

## **Awards 2007**

**Winner, UK Nursery Innovator of the Year 2007**

From: Helena Stroud  
To: info@walkodile.com  
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 2:33 PM  
Subject: NMT Awards photos and press release

Dear Elaine,

First of all, many congratulations on winning Nursery Supplier/Innovator 2007 in the NMT Nursery Awards on Friday! There was very stiff competition from excellent businesses, so you can justly feel very proud of yourselves.

I have attached two photographs of Elaine winning the award, and a press release which you may use if you choose to do so. The judges' reasons for choosing you are given below:

Category: Nursery Supplier/Innovator 2007

Winner: Elaine and John Stephen

Reasons for Winning:

It is a unique product which solves one of the key problems in managing outdoor activity, a vital safety product which added learning and interaction possibilities.

We were very impressed by the professionalism and level of research used in the development of the product.

Very well done once again. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Best wishes,

Helena Stroud

Deputy Events Manager  
Hawker Publications Ltd.  
2nd Floor  
Culvert House  
Culvert Road  
London SW11 5DH  
Tel: 020 7720 2108 ext 214

# **Grampian Business & Enterprise**

## **Awards 2007**

**Winner, Grampian New Business Enterprise of the Year 2007**

Enterprise North East Trust

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December 28, 2007



## Grampian Awards for Business Enterprise

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### Grampian Awards 2007

Apply Now

New Start Award

Young Business Award

Business Growth Award

Spirit of Enterprise Award

Sir Ian Wood Award for Innovation

Speakers

Sponsors



The Grampian Awards for Business Enterprise are presented in association with The Royal Bank of Scotland and Business Gateway and seek to encourage enterprise by selecting and rewarding entrepreneurial companies and individuals that are capable of leading the future prosperity of Grampian.

Small and medium sized companies based across Aberdeen city & shire can enter any of the appropriate categories. The winners and finalists will benefit from the considerable publicity and recognition that surrounds this high profile event.

If you think that your business has a unique quality that sets it apart from other organisations you could be a winner.

### Grampian Awards 2007 Winners Announced

The award categories are:

#### New Business Award

New Start Award - businesses that started trading after 1st June 2006.  
Finalists:

- Interactyx Limited
- Red Island Limited **WINNER**

#### Young Business Award

Young Business Award - businesses that started trading after 1st June 2004.  
Finalists:

- Capture Imaging Solutions
- Source People Ltd
- The Craigmyle Cheese Company **WINNER**

#### Business Growth Award

Business Growth Award - for businesses that started trading before 1st June 2007.  
Finalists:

- Duncan Taylor & Co Ltd
- JG Ross (Bakers) Ltd
- Journeycall Ltd **WINNER**

#### Spirit of Enterprise

The Alick Buchanan Smith Spirit of Enterprise Award - for businesses that are more than 5 years at 1 June 2007 and can demonstrate commitment to the community in which they operate.  
Finalists:

- C&M Group Limited
- JG Ross (Bakers) Ltd **WINNER**
- Macphie of Glenbervie

#### Award for Innovation

Sir Ian Wood Award for Innovation - for businesses which have successfully developed innovative products, technologies or services, or which have developed innovative ways of doing business with customers.  
Finalists:

- TWMA **WINNER**
- Romar International Limited
- Walker Technical Resources

#### Sponsors

The awards are sponsored by:  
The Royal Bank of Scotland  
Business Gateway (supported by SE Grampian)

Organised by:  
Enterprise North East Trust

and supported by:

#### Tickets

To book your tickets now for the prestigious Grampian Awards for Business Enterprise Dinner 2007 contact Karen Clark or complete the Booking Form

Thursday 7th June 2007 at Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen

7.00pm Champagne Reception  
7.30pm Dinner  
12.30am Carriages

Dress: Black Tie

Cost: £80 per person or £800 per table of ten (plus vat)

#### Speaker

Simon Woodroffe; YO! Roadie, Restaurant Rookie and Rocker, Simon Woodroffe has been all of these ... and more and he'll be sharing his experiences with north east entrepreneurs at the Grampian Awards for Business Enterprise this year. Simon, known to many as one of Dragons from the BBC's Dragon's Den, is founder of the successful YO! Sushi restaurant chain.

#### Deadlines

Stage 1: 9th March 2007  
Stage 2: 22nd March 2007  
Judging: 18th April 2007  
Awards Ceremony: 7th June 2007

#### Applications

##### The application process

The first stage requires applicants to complete the online application form. Those applicants who are successfully short listed will be asked to prepare a more detailed submission and provide supplementary information as required for stage 2.

Applicants who are successfully short listed following stage 2 will be invited to present to the judging panel in April 2007.

If any applicant requires assistance with the form or additional information contact Morag Fraser at Enterprise North East Trust; tel 01467 672565

Application Form 2007  
Conditions of Entry  
Hints and Tips

#### Prizes

A unique handcrafted Award and a cheque for:

New Business Award  
£2000

# **Shell European Safety Exchange**

## **Competition 2005/06**

**Winner, Pan-European Shell Exploration Safety Exchange Competition**

**2005/06**



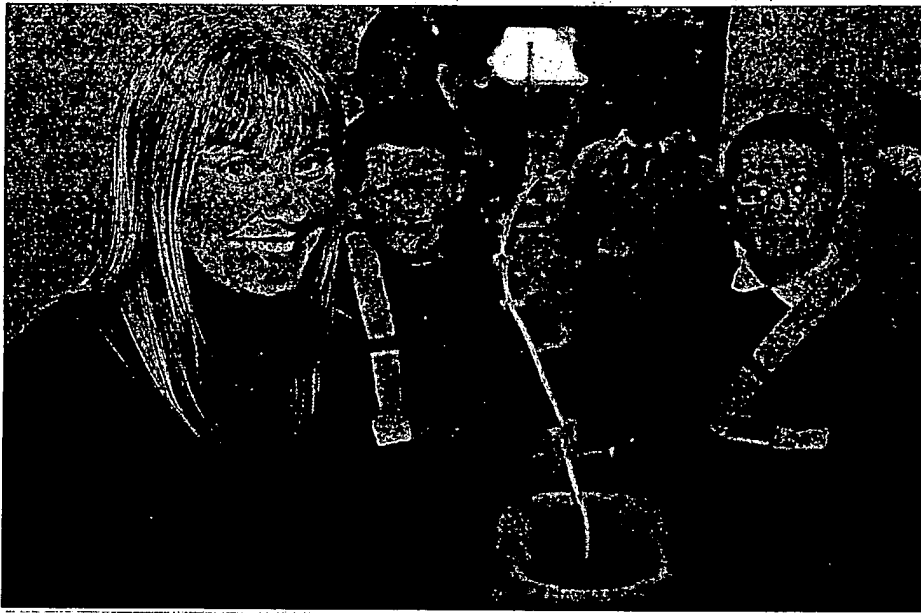
# TheLink

March 2006

The Magazine for Shell Exploration & Production in Europe

AN EYE-CATCHING SYSTEM FOR ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF THREE-TO-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN WHILE ON SCHOOL OR NURSERY WALKING TRIPS, A DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE STORYBOARD TOOL TO PROMOTE SAFETY OWNERSHIP AMONG OFFSHORE WORKERS, AND A DOWN-TO-EARTH INTERACTIVE CD-ROM ON THE ISSUE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, ARE THE WORTHY WINNERS OF THE 2005 SHELL (PROJECT ENGINEERING) SAFETY EXCHANGE COMPETITION.

THE PAN-EUROPE COMPETITION, WHICH DEVELOPED FROM AN AROUND-THE-TABLE SAFETY DISCUSSION BETWEEN SHELL REPRESENTATIVES AND DIVING COMPANIES, IS OPEN TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANISATION WITH AN INNOVATIVE SAFETY IDEA TO SHARE.



**First Prize Winner - Walkodile® Child Safety Walker, Elaine and John Buchan, Red Island Ltd, Peterhead, Scotland**

When parents leave their child with me at the school gate in the morning, they are handing me the most precious thing in their lives. It's a tremendous responsibility," says Buchanan. Elaine is a primary school teacher Elaine Stephen.

One of the biggest safety hotspots, according to RoSPA, is taking children out of school in a group. Elaine, well aware of this, had the idea of linking the children together in such a way that it would not restrict their movement and would be fun and safer when she took her pupils on an educational walk.

The Walkodile® system is the result of several years of hard work and considerable financial sacrifice on the part of Elaine and her husband, John, who formerly worked for Shell and BP and are setting up his own international property company.

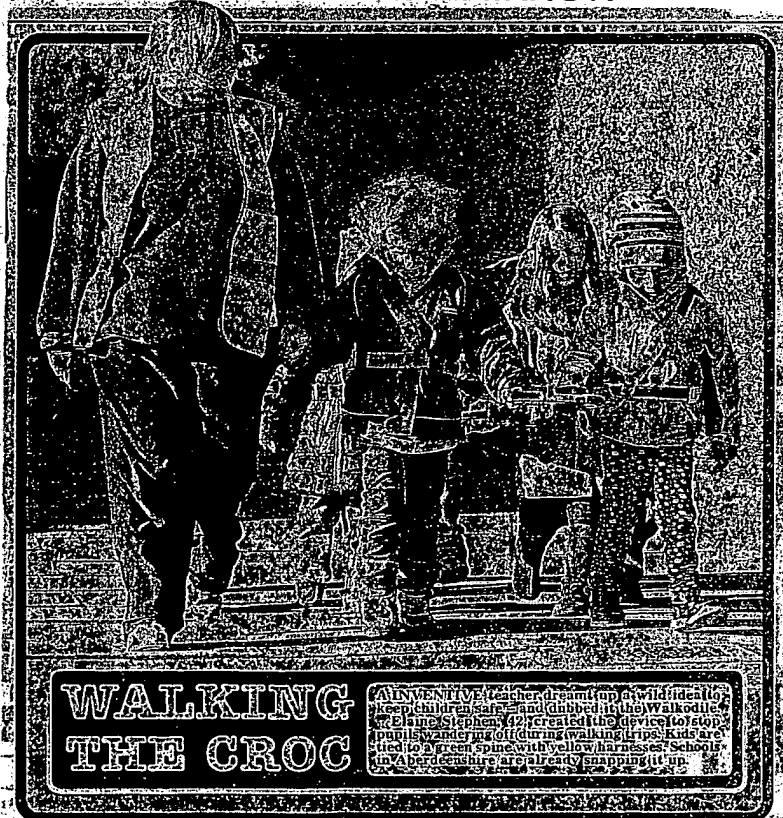
The innovative system consists of a modular 1.6m long flexible spine, to which the children are attached, two by two, via clips on their reflective safety harnesses. It allows freedom of movement, but keeps children secure, together and highly visible. A lively Walkodile® song is to the fun.

The Walkodile® child safety walker has been developed in association with De Montfort University, Leicester, and has been audited by the Ergonomic and Safety Research Institute at Loughborough University. It has been trialled in several schools in Aberdeenshire and the feedback from the teachers and young users has been very encouraging.

The children think it's great fun. They like the bright colours and tell us they feel safe. Teachers and nursery staff say it brings peace of mind, allows them to have more interaction with the children, and that it's very practical and easy to use," says John, who is now involved in promoting the system nationally. "We are delighted to have won first prize in this competition and it will create so many opportunities for us."

This is a terrific idea that has been worked on thoroughly by two very dedicated people and makes an important contribution towards child safety," says Shell Subsea Operations Safety Advisor, Keith Stevenson, who organised the competition.

## THE DAILY MIRROR



## Press Cuttings



receiving 2,000 hits a day on the website, simply from online searches for 'backless bra' and 'big sizes'. But with 80 per cent of women wearing the wrong size 'normal' bra, they need to be taught how to wear it. Although there is a fitting guide on the website, I'd advise getting fitted professionally at one of our stockists.

It looks like becoming a big success, but I still can't believe how much my life has changed because of a bra."

Faveo Freedom Bra costs £35. Visit [www.faveo.co.uk](http://www.faveo.co.uk) for details and stockists.

### **Teacher Elaine Stephen, 43, came up with a fun way to keep children safe on school trips**

"As a primary school teacher I worried every time took young pupils on outings. It's a huge responsibility because kids can be unpredictable, and it only takes a split second for them to let go of a hand and run into the road.

Finding a practical solution niggled away at me. In my mind, I pictured pairs of children in a line out, instead of linking hands, they would hold onto handles attached to a spine-like flexible frame, a bit like a crocodile, with simple harnesses linking them to it. I saw it as semi-rigid so that they could easily climb steps and swerve around objects, led by a teacher at the front of the crocodile.

I never thought to mention it to anyone until, one night in 2002, my husband and I were chatting about great inventions. His eyes lit up: 'That's a fantastic idea,' he cried. Buoyed up by his reaction, I sketched a very basic drawing on scrap of paper.

The next day, John picked me up from school and excitedly told me he'd made an appointment with a local design company. 'I'm serious,' he said, when he saw the incredulous look on my face. He'd spent the day sounding out business friends – who all thought it was a unique idea. When I showed the designer my sketch, he immediately said, 'Sign it and date it – now!' After that initial flurry, things moved at a snail's pace. Within 12 months, our £20,000 savings had been eaten up by the first prototype, but we weren't happy with it. I was really disheartened. Then, in 2004, we happened to see the BBC programme *Innovation Nation*. Fired up again, we contacted the show's producers with letters and telephone messages for weeks. They finally rang back, confessing they only get in touch with 'the persistent ones'.

It was the stroke of luck we needed. With their help, we contacted manufacturers and went back to the drawing board to develop prototype number two. But there were so many hurdles to overcome: as well as teaching full-time, my life was suddenly taken up with patents, prototypes, designs,



Elaine, from Aberdeenshire, with pupils and the "Walkodile", which won her a British Female Inventor of the Year award in April

production trials, independent studies and marketing. Then there was the website to set up and, being a child's product, there were so many stringent regulations to meet. Considerations like 'no sharp edges' are obvious, but I hadn't thought about children licking the frame!

And the cost has been unreal. We re-mortgaged our house to get the second prototype made and received some funding from Aberdeenshire Council – but we were struggling. Then, in 2005, our prototype won £15,000 from the Shell European Safety Exchange Competition. The timing couldn't have been better and enabled us to keep going.

When the first Walkodile finally rolled off the production line in November last year, I jumped for joy. 'I'm keeping her!' I yelled. That very first Walkodile still takes pride of place in our hallway.

Seeing her in action at my own school a few days later, I thought I'd burst with pride. The children were grinning from ear to ear as they wore their brightly coloured seat-belt harnesses, attached to the light plastic frame. Each holding a handle, they headed off down the road, singing my 'Walkodile song': 'We are walking down the

street, and smile at people that we meet.'

Soon, sales started taking off as other schools found out about it. After five long years (and a small fortune), it was wonderful to achieve some success. Then, at the British Female Inventor of the Year Awards in April this year, John and I nervously took our places at our allocated table at a posh London hotel. With no idea that I'd even been nominated, John assumed it was safe to nip to the loo when they came to the Product Development award. The presenter opened a gold envelope and announced third, then second place. When the winner was called, my jaw fell open. It was the most surreal moment of my life to hear my name echoing around the room. I made my way through a sea of faces, blinking back tears of joy, and stammered a few words of thanks. Then, still shaking, I somehow made it back to my seat. With almost comic timing, John then came back into the room." ☺

Walkodile costs £199 plus VAT (subsequent units cost £99 plus VAT). Visit [www.walkodile.com](http://www.walkodile.com) for more information.

**"I never thought to mention it until one night my husband and I were chatting about inventions. His eyes lit up. 'That's a fantastic idea,' he cried"**

04.05.07



Walking the line: teacher Elaine Stephen demonstrates her safety invention, the Walkodile

# Mother of invention

What does it take to turn an idea into a reality? Alison Brace talks to teachers who came up with the goods and ended up selling them

**W**hat do you do after a hard day in the classroom? Tinker in the potting shed? Chill out with a glass of wine? Or how about refining the prototype of your recently patented invention? It's not an 'average' hobby but, then again, there's nothing average about people whose belief in a product is so great they will throw tens of thousands of pounds at it to ensure its success in the marketplace.

Five years ago, Elaine Stephen came up with an idea for a flexible harness which would help keep groups of young children safe on school trips. She christened it Walkodile and convinced John, her husband, that they should commit £20,000 to getting the idea into production.

"The only time I have felt vulnerable in my 23 years of teaching is when I take the children out," says Elaine, 43, a Year 1 teacher at Buchanan School in Peterhead,

Aberdeenshire. "Walkodile was something I came up with which I thought would keep my children safe. I never thought I was going to invent something. I just thought it would help me do my job."

Neither did the envisage paying out £20,000 for making the Walkodile prototype, £40,000 on patenting it and a further £50,000 on metal moulds for mass production.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg: there was also the £25,000 spent on a prototype which was badly put together, money for research and for product design at Loughborough University, plus visits at Loughborough University's Ergonomic and Safety Research Institute.

That's all before fees for lawyers, IT consultants and PR companies. "Before you know what you're doing, you're on a rollercoaster ride," says Elaine, whose husband is now the full-time promoter of his wife's brainchild. Thank goodness for a close family: Elaine's sister and brother came up with £60,000 backing, Elaine and John a further £100,000 by

## AWARD

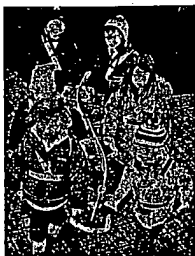
### Mother of invention walks into the limelight with child safety device

A Scottish primary school teacher who has created a child safety walker has won two major UK business awards for her innovation.

Elaine Stephen, a mother of two and teacher in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, recently took the top award in the female innovator/inventor category, as well as winning product developer of the year category for her Walkodile child safety device at the ninth annual British Female Inventors and Innovators awards.

Stephen has developed the device, on to which children are safely attached as they walk together, over the last five years. She and her husband John invested £150,000 of their own money into the product, forming the company Red Island to manufacture Walkodile. It was released on to the market in December last year and has been a success since.

"As a teacher, child safety is a subject close to my heart and I wanted to contribute something tangible to ensure children were safe and secure when out on walks from nursery or primary school," Stephen said.



THE SCOTSMAN FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008

All together now linking up to show safety can be fun

Continued on page 10

by Graham Grant

# A snappy way to stay safe on school trips

**I**T is a nightmare every parent hopes never to experience. Most mothers and fathers know the anguish caused when a child wanders off in a busy public place.

And many fear for their child's safety on school outings in case they become separated from classmates.

Now a pioneering invention could allay some of those concerns.

Primary school teacher Elaine Stephen has created the Walkodile – a brightly-coloured gadget that links children to a flexible central spine by harnesses.

Mrs Stephen and her family financed the £150,000 research and development costs and the units are being sold at £199 each.

They are suitable for youngsters aged three to seven. The children wear yellow harnesses and are snapped into the green-coloured spine which they hold on to as they walk.

A number of schools have already tried the invention and this summer around 500 will be produced to order.

If successful, it is hoped many more could be distributed throughout Britain and beyond.

Mrs Stephen, 42, who teaches five and six-year-olds at Buchanhaven Primary School in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, said: 'When parents drop their children off at the school in the morning they are leaving me with the most precious things in their lives.'

'It is so hard to protect young children, they blend in with the crowd, so I thought it would be great to have something that would make them stand out.'

'I mentioned the idea to my husband, John. He thought it was really good and it took off from there.'

Mrs Stephen, who has taught for 20 years, began drawing sketches for the Walkodile in 2002 and set up her own company, Red Island, with her husband.

She then developed a prototype, which is being used by pupils at her own school and others in Aberdeenshire.

**T**HE mother-of-two said her family had made sacrifices for the Walkodile and added: 'We had to remortgage our house, my sister gave us money, so did my brother – we did everything to scrape the money together.'

But Mrs Stephen has already received a positive reaction. 'The parents whose children have trialled the Walkodile have been very, very supportive,' she said.

'The whole point of my idea was to make walking with children a safer task, particularly in what can be a dangerous environment.'

'Overall, it's a fairly simple idea but the results from our trials have proven that it can give childcare staff

extra peace of mind and that children love using it, too,' Mrs Stephen said the device could also be used by childminders and parents taking out groups of children.

'This has been a huge learning curve and a financial struggle but we are proud of ourselves for getting this far,' she said.

'Now we just have to keep our fingers crossed and see how it goes.'

The company already has a number of orders placed for the Walkodile, which won the 2005 Shell Safety Exchange competition.

It could prove hugely popular among teachers as the growing risk of legal action from parents has led to fears that traditional school trips could be scrapped.

Dugald Campbell, headteacher of Ratho Primary near Edinburgh, was fined £750 two years ago after a six-year-old boy nearly drowned on a school trip to North Berwick.



Secure: Elaine Stephen and pupils demonstrate the Walkodile

## Primary Teacher UK

GIZMAG

### The Walkodile – ingenious child safety walker

May 12, 2006

This rates as one of the best and most sensible ideas we've ever seen. Anyone who has ever tried to orchestrate a public outing for more than two children under the age of eight years knows the dangers.

Children don't have the ability to judge speed, distance and danger so they make unpredictable and vulnerable pedestrians with matters often made much worse due to arousal levels heightened by the proximity of other children.

The Walkodile child safety walker is a significant development in the field of child safety as it offers a stress-free method of shepherding a group of primary school age children in public. The UKP200 Walkodile links four to six children to a central flexible spine, which they can hold on to whilst they walk. Each child is fitted with a high visibility, adjustable harness and joined to the Walkodile, which has been very successful in both formal and informal tests, as supervisors are able to steer six children by holding the hand of just one of the lead children. Quite predictably invented by a school teacher, the Walkodile means no more lost children and a greatly reduced possibility of much worse.

An information, news and resources blog for primary teachers in the UK

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

### Crocodile keeps children safe

A teacher has designed a contraption to keep children safe during school outings. Elaine Stephen, 42, who teaches five-year-olds at Buchanhaven Primary School in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, came up with the Walkodile, which links children by harness to a flexible central spine, after spending years ferrying groups in rambling crocodiles. She said: 'It is so hard to protect young children, so I thought it would be great to have something that would make them stand out.'

In the [original article](#) you can see a picture of the crocodile. Our school is considering starting a walking bus - maybe we should be having a walking crocodile!

## Pupils in harness to test child-safety device



Mrs Stephen's Walkodile is tested by Buchanaven pupils, from left, clockwise: Ethian, Levi, Morgan, Emma, Megan and Cory.

by Jamie Buchan

A SIMPLE idea by a north-east teacher is on the brink of revolutionising safety for children across the country.

It was four years ago that Buchan teacher Elaine Stephen mentioned her idea in passing to her husband. Now that thought has been developed at a cost of £150,000.

Mrs Stephen, from Peterhead, bankrolled the simple but effective Walkodile by herself. It incorporates an adjustable harness for each child which is linked to a flexible central spine.

"It allows up to six children, aged three to seven, to walk safely together in a group."

"As well as being highly visible to road users, it keeps the youngsters together and prevents them from wandering off into danger."

The first of its kind, the Walkodile is expected to set new standards in child safety.

A handful of the products are being tried out at schools across the north-east and have already proved a big hit with parents, pupils and teachers.

This summer, 500 Walkodiles will be produced and sent out across Aberdeenshire. Hopes are high that, in just a matter of time, Mrs Stephen's ground-breaking invention will be picked up by other authorities across the country.

The 42-year-old, who has been teaching for 20 years, said she is delighted with the Walkodile's success. "Four years ago, this was just an idea that I mentioned in passing to my husband. I'd no idea it would get this far. It's just fantastic."

She said: "I got the idea when I watched parents drop their children off at school in the mornings."

"It struck me that they are trusting us with the most precious things in their lives. It's up to us, the teachers, to do our utmost to look after them

and make sure no harm comes to them."

Mrs Stephen, who teaches at Buchanaven Primary, where she used to be a pupil, said: "The whole point was to make walking children between A and B a safer task, particularly in a safer environment."

"It's a fairly simple idea, but the results from our trials have proved that it can give child-care staff extra piece of mind. And the children love using it too."

Mrs Stephen added: "As well as encouraging children to think about road safety, using the Walkodile means that the walk is more relaxed so staff have more time to interact with children."

"So far, everyone that has used it has commented on the positive effect it has on children and professionals. What's more, they are all keen to get their hands on one."

Mrs Stephen fund-raised and obtained grants to develop the

product and secure a patent. In the end, she had to find £150,000. The final product will cost £199 and £99 for each extra one ordered at the same time.

Asked if the invention would secure her fame and fortune, Mrs Stephen said: "I've no idea what's going to happen."

"But, put it this way, I've no plans to retire anytime soon. This was always about making the children safe, nothing to do with making money."

Ian Stephen, Aberdeenshire Council's senior recreation and education officer, said: "We're dedicated to supporting homegrown talent, so it's great to see one of our own teachers come up with and have the courage to develop a unique invention."

The Walkodile has been developed by Red Island Ltd, the company set up by Mrs Stephen and her husband, John.

It was winner of last year's Shell Safety Exchange contest.

### Invention helps kids' road safety

Kids going on school trips could be a lot safer in the future thanks to an invention by a primary school teacher.

Elaine Stephen - who teaches at Buchanaven School in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire - has come up with the Walkodile, which keeps kids together.

They wear brightly-coloured vests and hold on to a flexible rod with handrails, meaning no-one goes missing.

Several schools have already trialled the invention and it's hoped 500 of them will be made in the summer.

#### Stand out

If successful, the design could be used throughout Britain and beyond.

Mrs Stephen said: "It is so hard to protect young children - they blend in with the crowd."

"I thought it would be great to have something that



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**TIMES ONLINE**

The best of The Times and The Sunday Times, in real time

### 'Crocodile' keeps children safe

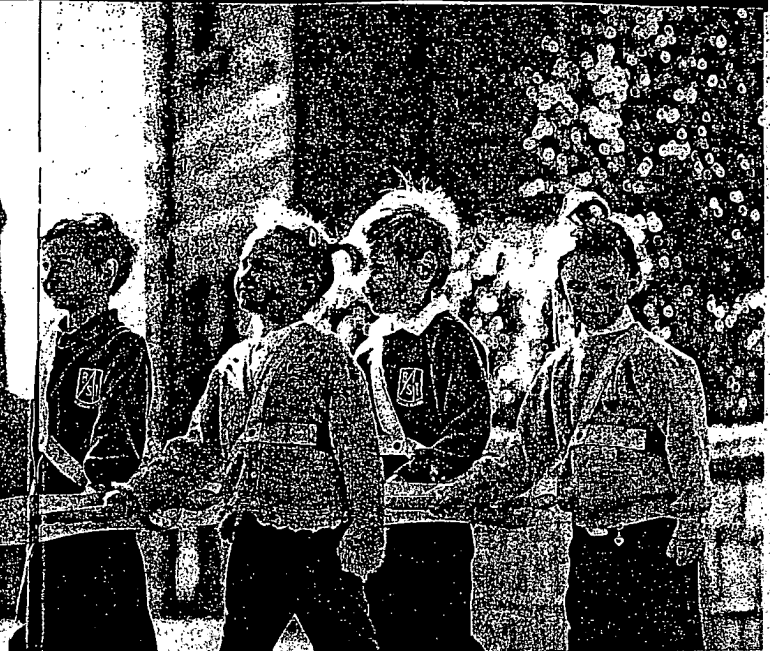
BY A CORRESPONDENT

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Walking the line: Teacher Elaine Stephen demonstrates her safety invention, the Walkodile



# Mother of invention

What does it take to turn an idea into a reality? Alison Brace talks to teachers who came up with the goods and ended up selling them

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Aberdeenshire. "Walkodile was something I came up with which I thought would keep my children safe. I never thought I was going to invent something. I just thought it would help me do my job."

Neither did the coverage paying out £20,000 for making the Walkodile prototype, £40,000 on patenting it and a further £50,000 on moulds for mass production.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg: there was also the £23,000 spent on a prototype which was badly put together, money for research and for product design at Leicester's De Montfort University, plus costs at Loughborough University's Ergonomic and Safety Research Institute.

That's all before fees for lawyers, IT consultants and PR companies. "Before you know what you're doing, you're on a rollercoaster ride," says Elaine, whose husband is now the full-time promoter of his wife's brainchild. Thank goodness for a close family. Elaine's sister and brother came up with £60,000 backing. Elaine and John a further £100,000 by

## AWARD

### Mother of invention walks into the limelight with child safety device

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"As a teacher, child safety is a subject close to my heart and I wanted to contribute something tangible to ensure children were safe and secure when out on walks from nursery or primary school," Stephen said.







Elaine Stephen with some of her pupils trying out the Walkodile by Jamie Buchan

A NOVELty walk primary school teacher has been crowned one of Britain's inventors of the year.

Elaine Stephen, from Peterhead, Scotland, has been named the winner of the prestigious ceremony in London for her innovative child safety walker, the Walkodile.

The 43-year-old mother of two beat off fierce competition from across the UK to become the British female innovator and inventor of 2006.

She also came out on top in the product developer of the year category at the ninth annual British Female Inventors and Innovators Awards.

Mrs Stephen, who teaches at Buchanan Primary, beat 14 other enterprising and inventive women to the top gong.

She produced the Walkodile with £150,000 of her own cash and has launched a company called Red Island, with her husband, who is marketing it.

The simple yet stunning device links a party of children to a flexible central spine by harness and allows them to walk safely together.

Just a year after its launch, nearly every school in Aberdeen has the device.

And Mrs Stephen and her husband and business partner, John, have had orders from other parts of Scotland as well as places as far afield as Singapore and Korea.

Mrs Stephen, who has been teaching for more than 20 years, said: "We just didn't think we were going to win this competition."

The competition was to find the best idea for a product which could be marketed in the UK and overseas.

She added: "As a teacher, child safety is a subject close to my heart and I wanted to contribute something tangible."

Mrs Stephen said the award would be a great launching pad to market the Walkodile across the UK and overseas.

She added: "As a teacher, child safety is a subject close to my heart and I wanted to contribute something tangible."

The Herald  
Friday April 27 2007

# Teacher is top inventor

GRAEME SMITH

AN PRIMARY school teacher has won two major UK business awards for an innovative child safety walker.

Elaine Stephen, a teacher at Buchanan Primary, Peterhead, Aberdeen, was named British female innovator and inventor of the year and also came top in the product developer of the year category for her Walkodile.

Mrs Stephen, a mother of two, had been shortlisted with 15 other teachers in the annual awards at the Gate Royal in London.

She said: "It's still a blur. I couldn't believe it. I was only especially as the competition was so fierce."

Mrs Stephen and her husband, John, have invested more than £150,000 in research and development costs into the Walkodile, a flexible central spine which allows children to walk safely together.

# Child safety device idea in running for award



Elaine Stephen tests her invention with the help of Buchanhaven primary pupils

## by Jamie Buchan

A PRIMARY school teacher who developed a novel way to keep children safe on the streets is in the running for a national inventors' award.

Elaine Stephen, who teaches at Buchanhaven Primary at Peterhead, produced the Walkodile with £150,000 of her own money.

The simple, eye-catching device links children to a flexible central spine by harness and allows them to walk safely together.

As well as being highly vis-

ible to road users, it prevents the children from wandering off into danger.

Mrs Stephen, a mother-of-two, has already taken 200 orders for the Walkodile from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and America.

The 43-year-old has now been shortlisted for a highly sought after UK award.

She is in the running for the British Female Inventors and Innovators Award for 2007.

The award will be presented at a gala dinner in London on April 24.

Mrs Stephen said last night:

"I am delighted to get this far in such a prestigious event.

"We have worked long and hard developing Walkodile, and we have had a tremendous response to the product from the many nurseries and schools which have bought it.

"They see it as an extremely safe and must-have device."

She said: "When parents drop off their children at school in the morning, they are leaving teachers like me with the most precious things in their lives.

"That's why I invented

Walkodile, in order that they will stand out in the crowd and be safe and secure."

Mrs Stephen set up the company, Red Island, with her husband and family to bankroll research and development.

She will be asked to make a Dragon's Den style presentation to competition judges and answer questions on her product before they announce the winner.

The awards were launched in 1999 to inspire women across Britain to turn their ideas into commercial ventures.

## CITY BRIEFING

### Primary teacher on awards shortlist

A SCOTTISH primary school teacher is in contention for the British Female Inventors and Innovators Award for 2007. Elaine Stephen, a teacher at Buchanhaven Primary School in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, was so passionate about child safety that she created Walkodile, which links

children to a flexible central spine by harnesses. Her family company, Red Island, has spent more than £150,000 on research and development costs, and has been named on the shortlist for the award which will be presented at a gala dinner at the Cafe Royal in London on April 24.

The Herald

Wednesday April 11, 2007

North Wales

# CHRONICLE

www.northwaleschronicle.co.uk

Thursday, November 8, 2007

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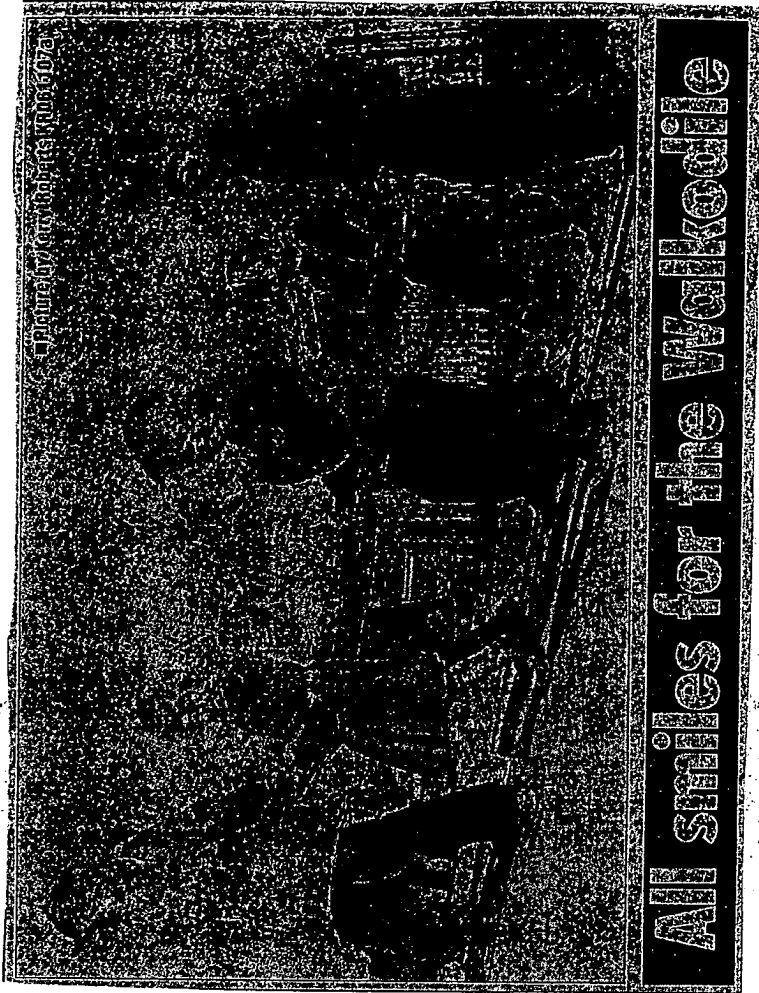
## A novel way of keeping the kids in line

**AN AWARD-WINNING** invention designed to combat child obesity was unveiled to the public on Tuesday. The Walkodie child safety walker is the brainchild of primary school teacher Elaine Stephen, who is based at St Mary's School, Mary's School, Mary's School.

Walkodie is an eye-catching device which links a child and a flexible central spine by harness, allowing them to walk safely together.

Mother of two Elaine, a winner of numerous awards including UK Woman Product Developer 2007, said: "I know there are teachers who are worried about the safety aspect of taking children on walks and outings, but with Walkodie they can have children out in the fresh air, seeing the world around them and they can do it safely."

As a teacher, Elaine, a great believer in encouraging children to good habits and one of the reasons she invented Walkodie was to get them out doors as often as possible and to do it with a device that is safe, exercise is essential from a young age, we want our children to be fit and healthy in the future, so go and out more, visit [www.walkodie.com](http://www.walkodie.com)



Picture by Guy Babington 6070

## All smiles for the Walkodie



Friday April 27 2007

The Herald  
Friday April 27, 2007

## Teacher is top inventor

GRAEME SMITH  
graeme.smith@theherald.co.uk

A PRIMARY school teacher has won two major UK business awards for an innovative child-safety walker.

Elaine Stephen, a teacher at Buchanhaven in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, was named British female innovator and inventor of the year and also came top in the product developer of the year category for her Walkodile.

Mrs Stephen, a mother of two, had been shortlisted with 13 others in the ninth annual awards at the Cafe Royal in London.

She said: "It's all still a blur. I couldn't believe I had won, especially as the competition was so fierce."

Mrs Stephen and her husband, John, have invested more than £150,000 on research and development costs, trials and the manufacture of the device which links children to a flexible central spine by harness, allowing them to walk safely together.



Elaine Stephen with some of her pupils trying out the Walkodile

by Jamie Buchan

A NORTH-EAST primary school teacher has been crowned one of Britain's inventors of the year.

Elaine Stephen, from Peterhead, scooped two awards at a prestigious ceremony in London for her innovative child safety walker, the Walkodile.

The 43-year-old mother of two beat off fierce competition from across the UK to become the British female innovator and inventor of 2006.

She also came out on top in the product developer of the year category at the ninth annual British Female Inventors and Innovators Awards.

Mrs Stephen, who teaches at

Buchanhaven Primary, beat 14 other enterprising and inventive women to the top gong. She produced the Walkodile with £150,000 of her own cash, and has launched a company called Red Island, with her husband, who is marketing it.

The simple, eye-catching device links a party of children to a flexible central spine by harness and allows them to walk safely together.

Just a year after its launch, nearly every school in Aberdeenshire uses the device. And Mrs Stephen and her husband and business partner, John, have had orders from other parts of Scotland, as well as places as far afield as Singapore and Korea.

to ensure children were safe and secure when out on walks from nursery to primary school."

Her husband said: "It was an amazing night. There was a woman sitting next to us at the ceremony who had a device which could detect meningitis."

"Someone else had a solar powered fridge. I was sure they were going to win and not us."

He added: "It's great that all the work that's gone into this is really paying off."

The inventors' awards were launched to inspire women across Britain to turn their ideas into commercial ventures.

## Equipment: Walkodile

**M**any children go out on trips from their nurseries each day, but one woman has invented an innovative new product to help ensure that they do so in safety.

Elaine Stephen, a primary teacher at Buchanhaven School in Aberdeenshire, has already won several awards with the Walkodile, a simple safety device that operates as the UK's first walking system for groups of children.

'When parents hand over their child to me at the school gates in the morning, they're giving me the most precious thing in their lives to look after and it is a tremendous responsibility. I wanted something that would ensure their safety,' says Ms Stephen.

She consulted a range of early years professionals including nursery staff and nursery teachers in schools before designing the product.

Ms Stephen then designed the prototype of the Walkodile which, she says, looks unlike the current model. Many months later, after numerous meetings with designers, lawyers, manufacturers, and supported by her husband John, the Walkodile was launched in November 2006. It won first prize in the Shell Safety Exchange competition 2005/06.

### In harness

So how does it work? 'It's like a friendly green wiggly crocodile,' says Alex Hofert, manager of Leapfrog Day Nursery, based in the city of London. 'Children put on harnesses which are then securely clipped to the main frame. It's easy and secure to use.' She says the Walkodile is suitable for her nursery because of its location in the city of London with busy roads and heavy congestion.

The innovative walking system consists of a strong flexible main frame to which up to six children from three to seven years of age can be clipped using secure two-way nylon safety connectors. It allows freedom of movement, and keeps children secure and together. Once a high visibility lightweight harness is slipped on to each child, they hold on to a handle and away they go.

What if a child falls over? Will that destabilise the frame? No. The Walkodile has undergone a series of safety tests at the Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute in Loughborough. They found that a falling child will not lead to the rest of the group falling over too.



## Walk and talk

A new safety device is making nursery outings a more relaxed and educational affair, says **Jennifer Beckles**

The walking system is flexible and strong. It allows significant freedom of movement and has been designed to move sturdily allowing a group to go up and down the stairs.

### Happy talk

While the Walkodile was devised with safety in mind, there have been other benefits. For example, the reassurance that children are safe within the frame reduces tension, anxiety and worry among nursery staff. Although staff remain vigilant while out with the children, more time is spent talking to children and each other and commenting on the many interesting things happening around them, according to Una Todd, nursery manager of Kindergarten Nursery in Aberdeen.

She says, 'It allows staff to talk more freely to the children. For example, they point out different colours of things around them, or count the number of cars they see as they stroll along the road.'

Ms Stephen finds the Walkodile makes a certain impression on road users. She says, 'Cars give us the respect we are due. They do not come up close behind us and give us lots of space and time to cross roads safely.'

How do children feel about walking in such an unusual frame? Have they cried or refused to be harnessed? 'Initially, there was a little reluctance. But this was soon overcome as children got used to it. Now they look forward to going out in it and tell parents "We've been out in the Walkodile".' **NW**




**Further information**

■ see [www.walkodile.com](http://www.walkodile.com).

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£7,500 cash  
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help feather  
our nest  
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vision, accusing the  
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## L NEWS

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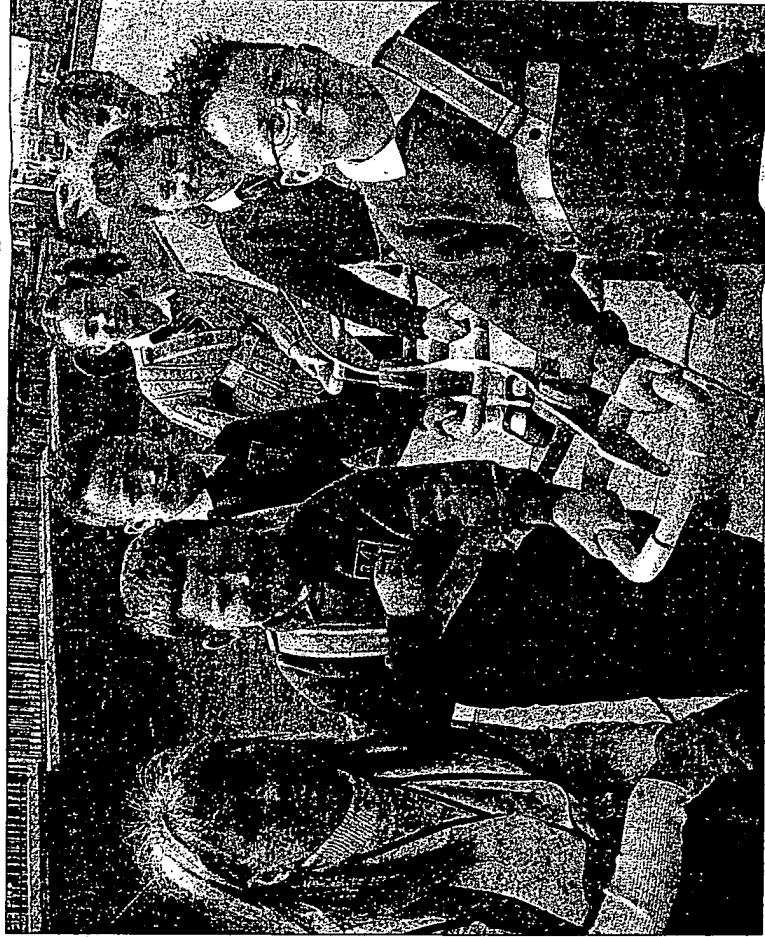
## TISH NEWS

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der of the Sports  
retail chain, Sir Tom  
as been named as  
s richest person,  
Highland landowner  
euer van Vlietingen  
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## INAL NEWS

under fire  
cretary Patricia  
in, 60226, under attack.

## Teacher's bright idea may revolutionise safety



Mrs Stephen's Walkodile is tested by Buchanan pupils, from left, clockwise, Ethlan, Levi, Morgan, Emma, Megan and Cory  
by Jamie Buchan  
A SIMPLE idea by a north-east  
The first of its kind, the  
Walkodile is expected to set  
new standards in child safety.  
"It struck me that they are  
not trusting us with the most pre-  
cious things in their lives."

# McConnell accused in Trump golf plans row

by Tom Kirk

FIRST Minister Jack McConnell was facing mounting pressure last night to distance himself from Donald Trump's north-east golf plans amid claims that his dealings with the US billionaire broke ministerial rules.

As Mr Trump travels to Scotland time since reviving £300million plans, a source close to Mr McConnell



vestment was announced, Mr McConnell said: "I was impressed by (Mr Trump's) enthusiasm for Scotland so I am not surprised he is keen to invest here. I spoke to him again yesterday and I know he is very excited about this project."

"His proposals recognise that Scotland is indeed the home of golf. We offer the most special golf experience in the world, with some of the world's best courses."

# Walkodile keeping children safe

## Child safety

**A**s a teacher specialising in early years' education, EIS member Elaine Stephen was always conscious that when parents left their children at the school gates, they were leaving the most precious things in their lives in her care. As the mother of a son and a daughter, she knew precisely how this felt but appreciated the huge responsibility of teachers and their assistants in keeping children safe.

Now, more than 20 years after entering the teaching profession, Elaine, after a lengthy period of research and development, has launched Walkodile, a safety walking system designed for 3-7 year-olds.

Walkodile is simple to assemble and easy to use as a maximum of six children wearing high visibility harnesses, click into a flexible central spine, ensuring their safety on walking trips. In addition, supervisors wear high visibility vests.

"The whole point of the idea," said Elaine, a teacher at Buchanhaven School in Peterhead, "was to make walking with children a safer task, especially as such an activity can sometimes be fraught and dangerous. Not only are the children safer, the staff with them have greater peace of mind knowing that they can manage the group more effectively."

"As well as encouraging children to think about road safety, Walkodile also allows the staff to indulge in greater interaction with them and I believe this has a positive affect all round."

Elaine and her husband, John, formed Red Island Ltd, to market and sell the lightweight device.

"We have put every penny we have into making Walkodile a success," she added. "That's how much we believe in it. We have to try to get children out into the fresh air, getting exercise as frequently as we can in the better weather and when I looked around and saw nothing else available on the market, I knew a more secure and safe device was needed."

The product has already won the 2005 Shell European Safety Exchange competition and, at the time of writing, Elaine has been shortlisted for a major award, the UK Women Inventor of the Year 2007, while Red Island is in the running for the Grampian Business Awards.

Husband John, a former oil company executive, is now putting his marketing skills full-time into making Walkodile a success.

"It is a big task," he said, "but one we aim to succeed in. I am as passionate about Walkodile

as Elaine and fully committed to bringing it to the attention of teachers, nursery owners, nursery staff and parents."

"It has been a long road from having the idea on paper, to the research and development process, then the manufacture of the item, the piloting of it in six Aberdeenshire schools, and now the selling of it."

Child safety statistics show that half of all UK nurseries take children-out on walks once a week while more than 70% of their staff feel concerned about how to keep children together on such occasions.

Nearly one in ten nurseries has experienced a situation where a child was hurt, or nearly hurt, on an outing because it was difficult to keep children safely together.

Those statistics are the principal reasons for Elaine Stephen taking the steps that she has. ■

### Stop Press....Stop Press...Stop Press

#### Awards Success for Walkodile Creator

As this Stop Press Press was announced that Walkodile creator Elaine Stephen has won two major UK business awards.

Elaine had been short-listed along with 16 other women in the 9th Annual British Female Inventor & Innovations Awards for 2007 at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Elaine has won in the female inventor/inventor category while she also came out on top in the product developer of the year category for her Walkodile child safety device.

She said "It's all still a bit of a dream, I couldn't believe that I had won it as special as the competition was so fierce. But it has been the result of five years of hard work in our efforts to have Walkodile recognised throughout the UK."

"A teacher, child safety is a subject close to my heart and I wanted to contribute something tangible to ensure children were safe and secure when out on walks from nursery or primary school."

Further information on the  
Walkodile is available from:  
[www.walkodile.com](http://www.walkodile.com)

# GRAB THE WALKODILE. AND MAKE IT SNAPPY

**LINKED FOR ACTION:** Young pupils from Elaine's school in Aberdeenshire put the Walkodile through its paces yesterday.



**TOP CLASS:** Teacher Elaine invented the Walkodile

By Bob Dow

**A TEACHER'S brainwave is set to change the way kids go walkabout.**

For Elaine Stephen's Walkodile means they can't wander off.

The mum of two's brightly coloured invention lets children join up and have fun walking with their "captured croc".

And Elaine is so convinced her idea will succeed, she has remortgaged her own home to raise £150,000 to develop it.

Elaine's invention links up to six children aged three to seven to a flexible central spine by harnesses.

Each is clipped into the central spine which the kids hold as they walk.

Elaine, 42, a primary teacher for 20 years, began sketching the Walkodile in 2002 after mentioning it to her husband John.

The couple have formed their own company and have already tried out the invention at Buchanaven Primary School, in Peterhead, where Elaine teaches. Elaine said: "It is so hard to protect young children, so I thought it would be great to have something that would make them stand out."

A total of 500 Walkodiles, at £199 each, will be sent to schools in Aberdeenshire this summer, with the hope of attracting interest from the rest of the UK and further afield.

LARSOA

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## THE COURIER Taking you to the heart of Tayside and Fife

### Teacher's invention keeps youngsters safely in step

A PRIMARY teacher has developed a pioneering safety device for young children going on walking trips.

Elaine Stephen created the Walkodile, which links children to a flexible central spine by harnesses.

The £150,000 project, financed by Mrs Stephen and her family, is designed to keep children together and prevent them wandering off into danger.

The youngsters "wear yellow" harnesses clipped on to the green spine, which they hold as they walk.

A number of schools have trialled the £199 invention and this summer around 500 will be produced for order.

Mrs Stephen (42), who

teaches five and six-year-olds at Buchanaven Primary School in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, said: "When parents drop their children off at school in the morning they are leaving me with the most precious things in their lives."

"It is so hard to protect young children—they blend in with the crowd—so I thought it would be great to have something that would make them stand out."

I mentioned the idea to my husband, John, he thought it was really good and it took off from there."

Mrs Stephen, who has taught for 20 years, began drawing sketches for the Walkodile in 2002 and set up a company, Red Island Ltd, with her husband.

She developed a proto-

type of the device, which is currently being used by pupils at her school and others in Aberdeenshire.

The mother-of-two said her family had made sacrifices for the Walkodile, which is suitable for three to seven-year-olds.

"We had to re-mortgage our house, my sister gave us money, so did my brother," she said.

Mrs Stephen said she had received a positive reaction. "The parents whose children have trialled the Walkodile have been very, very supportive."

"It can give childcare staff extra peace of mind and children love using it too."

The invention won the 2005 Shell Safety Exchange competition.

#### ROAD SAFETY NEWS

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#### Invention helps pupils stay safer



Children going on school trips could be safer in the future thanks to an invention by a primary school teacher.

Elaine Stephen - who teaches at Buchanaven School in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire - has come up with the Walkodile, which keeps kids together.

The children wear brightly coloured vests and hold on to a flexible rod with handrails. Several schools have already trialled the invention and it's hoped 500 of them will be made in the summer.

Mrs Stephen said: "It is so hard to protect young children - they blend in with the crowd. I thought it would be great to have something that would make them stand out."